

**TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 13, 2008**

**Meeting Place:** Grand Rapids Municipal Building, 2410 48<sup>th</sup> Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

**Present:** Chairman Don Bohn, Supervisors Arne Nystrom, Jeanne Fehrman, Bill Clendenning, and Edward Hellner; Building Inspector Lorelei Fuehrer, Treasurer Kristine Ginter, Clerk Judy McLellan.

**Absent:**

**Excused:**

NOTE: ( ) indicates agenda item of when Board member joined the meeting.

*Notices of the meeting were legally posted at The Store in Kellner, the Grand Rapids Garage and the Grand Rapids Municipal Building, and published in the Daily Tribune.*

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Don Bohn.

1. **Approval of April 22, 2008 Town Board Meeting and April 12, 2008 Town Board Road Inspection.** Supervisor Clendenning noted that in minutes of April 22<sup>nd</sup> item # 4 he made a motion to table resolution not discussion as stated. Motion (Hellner/Nystrom) to approve minutes as presented with correction stated above pertaining to motion in item #4. Motion carried.
2. **Application of Tom LaFontaine for a C.U.P for a 24' X 48' X 18' metal pole building on a vacant lot at 6390 Griffith Ave.** Supervisor Clendenning stated that he did not feel that the 15' screening was necessary for residential property. Motion (Clendenning/Nystrom) to approve the C.U.P for a 24'X48'X18'mettal pole building on a vacant lot at 6390 Griffith Ave with the conditions of: 20' setbacks from adjoining properties and if pole building is to be sold with the lots combined or if sold on the adjoining lot, the buyer must be advised a dwelling must be built in 2 years. Supervisor Fehrman stated she thought the condition of "no outside storage" should also be included. Supervisor Clendenning amended motion to include the condition of "no outside storage", second agreed. Motion carried.
3. **Application of Steve Bornbach for a C.U.P. for 3 dogs at 2321 Lovewood Dr.** Motion (Hellner/Fehrman) to approve the application for a C.U.P. for 3 dog at 2321 Lovewood Dr. Motion carried
4. **Approval/Denial of application for temporary Class "B" Picnic license by Kiwanis Lodge of Wisconsin Rapids for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Miracle Network Balloon Rally and Music Fest to be held August 22-23, 2008.** Motion (Nystrom/Clendenning) to grant a temporary Class "B" Picnic license as presented. Motion carried
5. **Clarification of motion made April 22 approving Wal Mart Safety Eye Ware Program.** Supervisor Fehrman amended motion made at April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting to read: Motion to approve Chief Bernette setting up a program through Wal-Mart Safety Eye Ware Program to include the first \$80 per year of the cost of prescription glasses paid by the town. The plan year will run from January 1 to December 31 of each year. Motion carried.
6. **Approval/Denial of renewal of VFD's Accident & Sickness policy with National Union Fire Insurance for the term May 08 – May 09.** Motion (Nystrom/Clendenning) to approve renewal of VFD's Accident & Sickness policy as presented. Motion carried
7. **Appointment and approval of two Planning Commission terms expiring May of 2008.** Chairman Bohn made the recommendation to re-appoint the two members whose terms were expiring, Thomas Arnold and Eugene Zager. Motion (Clendenning/Fehrman) to approve the appointment of Thomas Arnold and Eugene Zager for a 3 year term on the Planning Commission. Motion carried
8. **Approval/Denial of Fire Chief Scott Bernette and Assistant Chief Neil Heinrich attending WSFCA 2008 Conference in Wis Dells June 19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> .** Motion (Fehrman/Hellner) to approve Fire Chief Scott Bernette and Assistant Chief Neil Neinrich attending WSFCA 2008 Conference in Wis. Dells June 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

9. **Discussion of Draft of Fireworks Ordinance prohibiting the use or sale of illegal fireworks.** Clerk Judy McLellan stated that Attorney Quinn asked to have the Penalty wording be written the same as the rest of the ordinances. Wording will be “subject to forfeiture per Ordinance 39 “Schedule of Fees and Forfeitures”. Clerk McLellan also asked the board, on a request of a resident, to consider changing the dates that sales are allowed, to be June 1 to July 7<sup>th</sup>. Motion (Nystrom/Fehrman) to approve draft of Ordinance 55 with changes as suggested by Clerk McLellan. Motion carried
10. **Discussion pertaining to the changes proposed to Ordinance 2 – Control burning to allow the town to fine and charge for the cost of extinguishing a fire, anyone that fails to extinguish a fire.** Motion (Nystrom/Hellner) to approve draft of Ordinance 2 with corrections of grammar and spelling and changes to Ordinance 39 adding the fees and penalties from Ordinance 2 as presented. Motion carried
11. **Approval/Denial of New Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual.** Motion (Nystrom/Fehrman) to approve the new Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual as presented. Motion carried.
12. **Approval of April disbursement vouchers.** No questions.
13. **Approval/Denial of Operators License Applications.** No applications at this time.
14. **Monthly Reports from committees and departments.**
  - **Police Department:** Chief of Police Dave Lewandowski reported that there were 261 calls for service for the month of April. Last month Officer Krause and Officer Wiltse attended TraCS training and are working to get everything up and running. Chief Lewandowski has been working on the new Policy and Procedure Manual. Road Spikes have been purchased for the use in high speed chases. He has been working with MSTC and will be starting new procedures of having the Officers walking through campus. Chief Lewandowski stated that the town received a new ATV from a Grant that he wrote a few of years back and was able to bring with him. The ATV is the department’s to use until Nov at which time it will be returned to the dealer and the department will receive a new one next year in February.
  - **Fire Department:** Chief Bernette reported that there were 8 calls in March consisting of 1- search and rescue, 2-downed power lines, 2-grass/brush fires, and 1 CO call and 2 RIT calls. Training for the month of May will consist of: Pump operation and water shuffling. The First Responders have started to get in some of the equipment that was ordered. Chief Bernette met with the Riverview Hospital Foundation and will be moving into phase 2, the purchase of more equipment. Chief Bernette stated that with the help of Officer Wiltse and Gary Johnson from Higgins a grant was submitted and they also were awarded an ATV , a 2008 Polaris Ranger. The Explorer Post and Fire Department both donated \$500 for outfitting the ATV. They will be setting up a committee to get the unit set up for search and rescue as well as wild land fire fighting. Donations are welcome. The Firefighter’s Celebration will be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Grand Rapids Lions Club. The day starts at 8:00 am with a pancake breakfast. Activities continue through out the day with a polka band at 1:00 and Boogie & the Yo-Yo’s at 5 pm. Please buy your raffle tickets and plan to attend our annual fund raising event.
  - **Safety:** Safety Director Scott Bernette reported no lost time injuries for the month of April. Safety meeting was held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> with the topic of hearing protection. The Safety Shower at the Town Garage is being installed.
  - **Public Works:** Chairman Bohn stated that the road sweeping is almost complete. The crews are performing maintenance and taking snow plowing equipment off of the vehicles. Our vendor for snow plow cutting blades notified us that there was going to be a significant price increase, so some of the blades needed for next year have been purchased. Supervisor Hellner stated that there have been no major breakdowns of equipment lately. The crew is also working on cleaning up the road right of ways of items like downed trees. Supervisor Hellner also stated that 32<sup>nd</sup> Street from Peach to Chestnut is closed for water line installation.
  - **Crime Stoppers:** Supervisor Arne Nystrom stated that Crime Stoppers will be having a Computer and Electronics Recycling drive on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Marshfield Fair Grounds from

noon to 5 pm. Some cost may be charged based on the item. Cash on hand for Crime Stoppers is \$9,234.67.

- **Airport Commission:** Supervisor Nystrom presented the financial statement from the airport. Finances look stable even with the high cost of snow plowing last year. Supervisor Nystrom noted that the walking trail is again open to the public. Users of the trail should make sure that all animals are on leashes and any animal waste is picked up.
- **Planning and Zoning:** Supervisor Fehrman stated that two members of the Planning Commission will be attending the WTA seminar next week on wind power. The Commission is working on an exotic ordinance draft. The Planning Commission is also hoping to schedule a meeting with the Village of Port Edwards, Village of Biron, Wisc. Rapids and DOT to gather information on the proposed plan for the Hwy 54 expansion.
- **Building Inspector:** Building Inspector Lorelei Fuehrer stated there has been one new home permit with 3 other new home inquiries. There have been numerous permits issued for remodeling projects and sheds last month. Lorelei informed the board that she has condemned a foundation in the town. The owner has until June 6<sup>th</sup> to prove that the foundation is usable or the foundation will need to be filled in or removed.
- **Recycling and Garbage:** Supervisor Clendenning stated that the Committee met April 23<sup>rd</sup>. A representative from Veolia as well as a town resident was present. Many items were discussed (minutes are available from clerk) and a visit to recycling business in town took place. The Committee is still looking for any citizens who would be interested in becoming part of the Recycling and Garbage Committee.

#### 15. Other Public Input

Supervisor Fehrman gave an update on the progress of Ruekert-Mielke on feasibility shared services study. Ruekert Mielke has asked the town to set up a date to give a presentation to the Grand Rapids Board and Village of Biron Board. The date of May 29<sup>th</sup> will work for Grand Rapids Board. Clerk will check with Village of Biron and Ruekert-Mielke. Supervisor Fehrman also informed the Board that the grant application to the Community Foundation for phase II has been submitted.

Motion (Nystrom/Fehrman) to move into closed session. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried. Board in closed session 7:35 p.m.

Motion (Hellner/Clendenning) to come out of closed session. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried. Board in open session 8:21 p.m.

Motion (Clendenning/Fehrman) to create a ¾ time position in the Police Department to begin as soon as a candidate can be hired. The position will not be eligible for medical insurance through the Town while a ¾ time position. The position will become a full time position as of March 1, 2009. Motion carried.

Motion (Hellner/Fehrman) to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 9:24 p.m.

Minutes subject to board approval.

Respectfully submitted and approved  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008

Judy McLellan  
Town Clerk